



THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 40

March, 1988

On Saturday, November 14, 1987, Lynne Murphy and I attended a workshop in the Visitors' Centre, Black Creek Pioneer Village.

The workshop "Milestones in 19th Century Family Life" was sponsored by The Ontario Historical Society, and Joyce Lewis was the chairman.

The first speaker was Douglas Leighton, History Department, Huron College, and President, The Ontario Historical Society. His very interesting topic was "Beliefs, Churches and Religion in Victorian Ontario".

A slide-talk "Death and Mourning Customs in Victorian Ontario" was presented by Sharon McDonald, Curator, Metropolitan Toronto Police Museum. Several artifacts brought by participants were handed around after. They included two silver coffin-plates, Victorian death certificates, and Lynne brought a copy of her great-grandfather's death announcement card.

Felicity Nowell-Smith, Curator, Museum of the History of Medicine, talk was "A short illness....", births in 19th century Ontario, and the final speaker was Jeanne Hughes, Curator, Black Creek Pioneer Village. Her slide talk was titled "with this ring..." and was about 19th century Ontario marriages.

Lynne and I enjoyed the workshop, and we thought that Douglas Leighton's, and Sharon McDonald's talks were particularly interesting and informative. It was a very worthwhile workshop.

Jane Aitken

The Grange participated in "Heritage Showcase '88" day on February 6 at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Volunteers in costume worked, in two shifts, at The Grange table.

On display were the poster, a drawing of The Grange, bread, brochures, pin-pricking pictures, cookbooks, and there was a continual slide presentation. The posters, the cookbooks, and "The Privileged Few" all sold well.

Among the approximate 30 exhibitors were Gibson House, the First Post Office, the ROM, and the Agricultural Museum, as well as The United Empire Loyalist Society, The Monarchist League, the 78th Fraser Highlanders, and many historical societies.

The other participants and the public were interested in The Grange table and displays, and we all felt that it was worthwhile to have taken part in the Showcase.

My thanks for the volunteers, Mary Aziz, Anne Hope-Brown and Anne Mercer.

Jane Aitken

Origin of the word "Orangerie"

Queen Elizabeth I was given an orange tree. In order to preserve it, a glass-walled house was built to protect it. Thus the term Orangerie, as the one on the east side of The Grange was called.

Joan Stoicheff.

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CALENDAR

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR
ENGAGEMENT BOOK

Volunteer Training Sessions

Tues. March 22, 1988

"Furniture styles at The Grange"
with John McIntyre.

Mon. April 11, 1988

"Caring for Furniture" with
Stephen Poulin.

We are serving a light supper
at 5:00 pm. and the lectures
begin at 6:00 pm.

On February 23, we had our
first training session of
the series, "Researching the
Furnishings of The Grange"
with Margaret Machell.

This was well attended and
enjoyed by all the
volunteers.

Spring Outings

Monday, April 25, 1988

Visit to the Old Post Office
and First Bank of Upper Canada
then lunch at George Brown
Community College.

Monday, May 9, 1988

Visit to Parkwood, Oshawa, and
the new Art Gallery of Oshawa.
Lunch to be arranged.

Monday, June 6, 1988 6:00 pm.

A Grange Garden Tour and
Lecture.

The following dates have been
chosen for the autumn training
sessions:

Tues. Sept. 20 - evening

Tues. Oct. 4 - evening

Mon. Oct. 17 - morning

Mon. Nov. 7 - morning.

Spring Luncheon/Lectures

Tues. March 29, 1988. 11:00 am.

"Frances Stewart" 19th Century
Country Life - with Ann O'Brian
and Ruth James.

Rehearsal - Friday, March 25
at 10:30 am. All volunteers
are invited to attend.

Tues. April 12, 1988. 11:00 am

"Tavern in the Town" - Early Inns
and Taverns of Ontario. Given
by Margaret McBurney and Mary
Byers, authors of the book of the
same name.

The William Morris Society is
holding its annual evening
lecture on April 7, 1988 at
7:30 pm.

The speaker is K. Corey Keeble,
Associate Curator-in-Charge,
European Department, ROM.
The title of his lecture is
"Morris Glass: Its Milieu and
Its Legacy" - Windows in England,
Canada and in The Grange.

Admission is \$7.00 including light
refreshments.

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"Daily Pursuits"- "Lady Bountiful"

The Toronto Urban Studies Centre program "Daily Pursuits" is proving to be very popular, with the teachers, and also with the children. They thoroughly enjoy the role playing, and being future servants, or the family.

9 lectures are booked for the early summer, all Tuesdays.

April 5,
April 26
May 3
May 10
May 17
May 24
May 31
June 7
June 14.

There will be a meeting with Anne Marie Hagen from the T.U.S.C. on Tuesday, March 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room.

It is important for all the docents, and anyone who is interested in participating to be present.

A letter of appreciation -

On behalf of Room 34 of Ryerson School, I would like to thank-you for the tour of the Boulton's home. The tour was lots of fun, because you treated us like we were looking for a job, or cousins just visiting the home.

I enjoyed the beautiful stained glass windows, the old furniture and other antiques. I also liked your pretty costumes, but they were really long, and looked very heavy wearing them. It must be very hot in those dresses, isn't it? What I liked most about the house was how big it was; the kitchen; the front staircase; the really short bed.

On the tour I was a servant and I learned that the servant has a lot of responsibilities, like to light the fireplaces, make the beds, and cleaning the chamber pots just to name a few.

Thank-you for the wonderful afternoon tour you people gave us.

Sincerely, Jennifer Lee.

Comments from teachers on regular Grange tours.

Best of all I like breaking into SMALL groups each with own leader. THIS IS A MAJOR BENEFIT. The tour was the best ever for schools in my 31 years teaching!!

I was very pleased that the slide presentation was done in English and French. The children really enjoyed the art activity at the end of the tour.

Of all the tours we have experienced I found the guides and general atmosphere at The Grange the most pleasant, warm, relaxed. The guides were patient and friendly, and had sense of humour with the children.

Although the students found the tour of the Canadian Collection (AGO) instructive, they found The Grange experience more welcoming and of a more experiential nature. Quite simply, they loved it and learned much.

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News of Volunteers

Lynne Murphy, a Grange volunteer for 6 years, and our Education Chairman for the past 3 years, has handed in her resignation, and is working at Gibson House as part time staff.

She has been a loyal and hard working Tuesday Volunteer, and a very efficient and interested Education Chairman.

We are all sorry to say goodbye to her, but we wish her well in her new job.

Alice Gray has agreed to become the new Chairman of Education and I know she will do a good job.

Bev Hain started as a summer-only volunteer, but she liked the house so much that she "signed on" and came in every Wednesday for a year. Her husband has been transferred to Sarnia, and sadly for us, Bev went too.

It is very nice to see Ann Molesworth back again after surgery.

Rohaise Nicholls, the former Kettledrum chairman, resigned before Christmas. Nancy Lofft and Claire Miller stepped in and now they have been joined by Elizabeth Chish. The 3 of them make an excellent team, and the dinners are as delicious as ever.

The following volunteers have joined The Grange in the past 6 months. I would like to welcome you all and I hope that you will enjoy working in the house.

Penny Goldie, Molly Russell, Pearl Birch, Tina di Vincenzo, Elizabeth Chish, Jon Dakin, Jean Dodd, Virginia Wilcox, Ilona Szecsko, Grace Filion and Rebecca Roosman.

Here is a request from Ruth Keene. She asks that you burn the candle wicks down, before the candles are placed in the rooms, and that the ridges at the bottom of the candles are scraped off.

Candles on the main floor and top floor should not be allowed to burn lower than 5", and, in the kitchen areas, no lower than 2".

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NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

In the December-January/88 issue of Century Home there is an article "Gleanings for gardeners" by Helen Skinner. Reference is made (page 11) to Ann Leighton's book American Gardens of the Nineteenth Century (copy in The Grange Library).

See chapter 19 "Northern lights" for comments on Canadian gardens including material from John Howard's diaries on the gardens at Colborne Lodge.

Mention is also made of Mrs. Annie L. Jack, born 1839, who came to North America in 1852 and eventually settled at Chateauguay Basin near Montreal. Her gardens and orchards became a demonstration area, and she became well known as a writer and as the author of The Canadian Garden: a pocket help for the amateur.

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The following are recent additions to The Grange Library:

Architecture of the British Empire. General editor: Robert Fermor-Hesketh. New York, Vendome Press, 1986.

Chapel, Jeannie. The fine and decorative art collections of Britain and Ireland... London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1985.

Cooke, Lawrence S., ed. Lighting in America: from colonial rushlights to Victorian chandeliers. New ed. Pittstown, N.J. Mainstreet Press, 1984.

Harkness, Jack. Roses. London, Dent. 1978.

Hughes, Therle. Edwardiana for collectors. London, G. Bell, 1977.

The illustrated history of Canada, edited by Craig Brown. Toronto, Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1987.

Kalman, Bobbie. Early pleasures and pastimes. Toronto. Crabtree Pub., 1983. (Volunteers' shelf)

King, Thomas B. Glass in Canada. Erin, Boston Mills Press, 1987

Lascelle, Claudette. Urban domestic servants in 19th century Canada.. Ottawa, 1987. (Copy on Volunteers' shelf).

Leighton, Ann. American gardens of the nineteenth century "For comfort and affluence". Amherst, Univ. of Massachusetts Press, 1987.

McBurney, Margaret. Tavern in the Town: early inns and taverns of Ontario. Toronto, Univ. of Toronto Press, 1987.

Moodie, Susanna. Life in the clearings. Toronto, Macmillan, 1959. (Volunteers' shelf).

Symonds, R.W. Masterpieces of English Furniture and Clocks... London, Studio Editions, 1980.

The Victoria Magazine, 1847-1848. Ed. by Susanna and J.W.D. Moodie... Vancouver, Univ. of British Columbia Library, 1968.

White, Randall. Ontario, a Political and Economic History, 1610-1985. Toronto, Dundurn Press, 1985.

Mary Ash

